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LUC-439/Florkey 13-7-3

JUL 27 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 25 are pending in the application. Claims 6-24 were withdrawn. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). Claim 5 was objected to.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have elected to write claim 5 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Objection

Claim 5 was objected to because of an informality.

Applicants have responded by amending claim 5 to change one instance of the term "to the first" to "to the second".

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,643,291 issued to Yoshihara on November 4, 2003.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Number 20050058260 issued to Laserski on March 17, 2005.

Applicants have avoided this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants' claim 1, as amended, now recites,

"a gateway component that provides an identifier of a service provider to a sender of the message through employment of a user address associated with a recipient of the message, wherein the identifier is a logo associated with the service provider."

Yoshihara does not teach this limitation. Instead, Yoshihara discloses that first and second communications interface apparatuses comprise identification information storage means, as stated in column 3, lines 9-31. However, contrary to applicants' claim 1, Yoshihara does not teach "the identifier is a logo associated with the service provider". Thus, Yoshihara is missing "the identifier is a logo associated with the service provider" element, as recited in applicants' claim 1.

Lasenski does not teach the limitation either. Instead, Lasenski discloses an identifier that can be used to determine a reply path related to a data message, as disclosed in paragraph 0012 and paragraph 0050. However, contrary to applicants' claim 1, Lasenski does not teach "the identifier is a logo associated with the service provider". Thus, Lasenski, similar to Yoshihara, is missing "the identifier is a logo associated with the service provider" element, as recited in applicants' claim 1.

Thus, the clear teaching of Yoshihara and Lasenski is that the identifier is not a logo associated with the service provider.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that Yoshihara and Lasenski do not describe each and every element of claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is not anticipated by Yoshihara and Lasenski. Since claims 2-4 depend from allowable claim 1, these claims are also allowable over Yoshihara and Lasenski.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihara in view of Lasenski.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is based on the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 being proper. As that ground of rejection has been overcome, and none of the cited references teach or suggest "the identifier is a logo associated with the service provider", as recited in applicants' independent claim 1, the combination of Yoshihara and Lasenski does not supply this missing element. Thus, this combination does not make obvious any of applicants' claims, all of which require the aforesaid limitation.

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New Claim

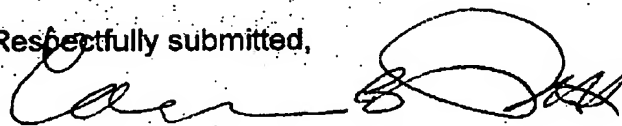
New claim 25 has been added. Claim 25 is substantially similar to the originally filed claim 4. Claim 25 is submitted to be allowable based on its dependency from allowable claim 5. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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